

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed May 23, 2006. Claims 17-24 stand rejected. In this Amendment, claims 17 and 21-24 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants amended claims 17-20 to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 17-20 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and requests withdrawal of this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claims are not limited to tangible embodiments. Claims 21-24 have been amended to be directed to an article of manufacture, thus limiting the claims to tangible embodiments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 21-24 comply with 35 U.S.C. §101, and requests withdrawal of this rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-16 are allowed.

Applicants further thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 17-20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 17-20 have been amended accordingly. In addition, as discussed above, claims 21-24 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for

allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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